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BULLETIN

OF THE

American Iris Society

October, 1930

MORE TRAVELS.

No. 37

R. S. STURTEVANT, Editor
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—Photo by S. Duffy

Jacob Sass and "Warm Biscuit," in other words Wambliska, the Indian name for White Eagle.

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

"ADVENTURES OF AN IRIS HUNTER"

R. M. Cooley, Oregon

During the six or eight years in which I have developed an enthusiasm for irises, I have often pondered over the good fortune of those people living say around Boston, or Cincinnati, or perhaps somewhere in Illinois. To me it seemed they must be in an iris lover's Paradise, for within a radius of a few miles certainly could be found at least a half-dozen of the places and persons so frequently mentioned in the columns of the Iris Bulletin and various magazine articles. So with a trip last year to California as an incentive to see and learn what was growing on the other side of the fence, the writer left Silverton, Oregon, on Sunday, May 11th, on an iris-seeing tour that covered over 7000 miles.

It was my intention to go first to Omaha, but a few days before my departure I received a letter from Mr. Salbach advising that he was experiencing a late season, and that if I would come through Berkeley I would catch his garden in even better bloom than I did last year. My own garden was full of color, and the Silverton Iris Show was held the day before I left. Local fanciers saw for the first time Midgard, Petruchio, Blue Velvet, Sir Michael, Magenta, Melchior, White and Gold, Coronation, Sunlight, Ion, Allure, Dauntless, Nebraska, San Diego, Sacramento and Mirasol, among others. Blue Velvet and Sir Michael were the outstanding dark ones and the favorites of all who saw them. Again Dr. Kleinsorge's seedlings came through in fine fashion, Klamath, Oregon Beauty and Oregon Giant being equally well received.

When I stepped from the train at Berkeley I was met by Mr. Salbach who took me at once to his beautiful garden on the hills above the city. His is one of the most picturesque iris gardens in the country, for he has the advantage of the natural landscape to frame his plantings. The irises are growing on a gentle slope, facing the morning sun, with a background of tall eucalyptus trees and rolling hills. This was my second visit here, and again I was

struck with the perfection of Frieda Mohr, Purissima, and San Francisco. I can't conceive of an improvement on these three irises, unless it be with regard to hardiness. As they grow in their home garden they are gigantic in size, and lovely beyond words, despite their tremendous proportions. Wm. Mohr, the unusual *Gatesii* hybrid, was blooming in profusion. Mr. Salbach informed

—Photo by V. Edlmann

Iris San Diego (Mohr-Mit.).

me that he had brought on some of these in pots, and he ventured the opinion that it would become a great favorite for this purpose. Among those of last year's introduction which appealed to me were Monterey, a large dusky purple; Sacramento, very huge, on a tall stem and quite like San Francisco except that the stitchings and spottings are reddish instead of blue; San Diego, a clear deep blue showing traits of the El Capitan-Gaudichau parentage. I liked a yellow blended seedling, a cross of Coronado × Glowing Embers, which I was told would be introduced next season. It had splendid large flowers with standards of brass yellow, something a bit different from the usual tones of yellow. The falls were flushed heavily with blue and bordered with this same odd tone of yellow.

My attention was drawn to several spikes of the famous Pluie d'Or, and I wish to say right here that I consider it the best yellow with which I have come in contact. It is only medium in size, but it is absolutely clear in color, a uniform deep yellow, and the stems are very well branched, over three feet tall. It produces its flowers abundantly. It is a beautiful iris, without the "dinky" appearance of so many of our contemporary yellows. It should be exceedingly popular when the price brings it within the reach of most of us. This year it is being used a great deal in breeding.

The Salbach garden contained a number of the recent foreign introductions, and some especially well grown specimens of Sir Michael, Mrs. Valerie West, and Melchior. Sikh, a stranger to almost everyone, has rich dusky flowers showing Dominion traits, and made an even greater impression on me than last year, when I was first attracted by its beauty. The Sass irises, growing here in a limited number of varieties, did not seem to like California conditions, although King Tut and Redwing looked fairly good,—not nearly so fine as in the mid-West. Mr. Salbach showed me a bed of seedlings of his own raising, grown from Dominion strains crossed with some of his tenderer sorts. Some of them were very rich and of great size. Mr. Mitchell is likewise using the Dominion blood to some extent, though it has been his policy not to use it in the past. In his garden were numerous named varieties from almost every originator the world over, as well as unnamed seedlings under number from the same sources. But, of course, the main attraction was the famous Mohr-Mitchell seedlings, growing in rampant fashion up and down the hill, and hiding here and

there among the surviving trees of an old orchard. Favored by California conditions, the element of size could be introduced through tender strains and carried to its extreme, and I saw here some of the most colossal iris blossoms ever grown. Two seedlings blooming for the first time were full of promise; one a deep but very bright clear red; the other resembling a piece of brown velvet. Due to the fact that Prof. Mitchell was abroad, his garden did not present the neat appearance which it did last year.

I was next driven to the home and garden of Prof. Essig, facing San Francisco bay and the Golden Gate. Because of this different exposure to the sun though only a few blocks distant from Salbach's, his season is about ten days ahead of the latter. So most of the irises were out of bloom, but I found a most interesting hillside garden, with tiny pools, splashing little cataracts, and a host of succulents and rock plants. His finest iris to date, Modoc, was in fair condition and is a very good introduction. The color is exceptionally dark, a deep velvety purple-brown. Another one, called Sundew, is light yellow with slight brownish veining near the center, as I recall it. He had a great number of large blues in various gradations of shade and shape.

Mr. Salbach was kind enough to make a 40 mile drive to San Jose and return, in order that I could see the manner in which lilacs are growing under California conditions. On the way we passed the country home of the late William Mohr, the father of the line of irises which have become famous the world over. What a pity he could not have lived to give the world more of the fruits of his knowledge and experience.

Arriving in Omaha late in the evening, I was met at the train by Mr. Maxwell, the county agent, with whom I had an interesting talk on irises while he drove me to my hotel. The following morning found me with Jacob Sass and family, at his Maple Road Gardens. Henry, one of his younger sons, is intensely interested in horticulture, and accompanied us about the place. Iris growing is only a side issue on the Sass farm, which produces annually its quota of Nebraska corn. But it is a mighty healthy side issue! First we went through the older planting, where were growing a great number of the sanded and striped plicatas such as Lona, King Karl, and Beau Ideal. There were hundreds of sister seedlings of this group, not named. Personally, I prefer King Karl, and it grows well and blooms abundantly not only at Omaha, but everywhere

else I chanced to see it. I learned that both the Sasses have been working on the dwarfs and intermediates, and have thousands of seedlings of these types under observation. I was amazed to find red intermediates, blended dwarfs, a marvelous snow-white dwarf, and hundreds of other things in this line absolutely new, to me at least. We came upon a most beautiful yellow intermediate, perfectly branched, with fine rounded flowers, that was akin to Pluie d'Or in its character and color tone. And there were blends galore in the intermediate section.

After looking over limitless numbers of other seedlings in the tall bearded section, a tall white caught my eye, and I went over and examined it. I remarked that if it was hardy it should displace any hardy white in commerce. Mr. Sass shook his head, and said that it would never be introduced, and there was a twinkle in Henry's eye. "You will find out," said Henry, "why he says that, when you have seen the rest of our seedlings." Climbing over a wire fence, I found that we had just now entered the "holy of holies" where the things which were deemed truly meritorious were planted. Just a glance 'round, and there, pushing all else out of the picture for the moment, was the white iris I had been led to expect. It was of huge proportions. The stem must have measured four feet, and was heavy and straight, with great heavy textured blooms perfectly spaced and held well out on many branches. There was a slight blue flush at the base of the standards, but it did not detract from the beauty of the flower, and was not sufficient to prevent its being classed as a white self. I understand it is to be called "Wambliska," meaning White Eagle. It was worth my trip to Omaha to see this iris. Jacob Sass told me that it was thoroughly tested for hardiness, and this being the case I believe it will prove to be a sensation.

In this same planting of selected seedlings there were growing some beautiful pinks, from light to dark shades, and I understand that Mrs. Pattison picked Pink Satin as being the best of them. It would be difficult to discard one or two of the darker ones, which I would regard as entirely distinct from Pink Satin. Outstanding also was a rich dark blue, a cross of Cardinal with Buto, selected as an improvement on the latter. There were a great many Cardinal seedlings, many of them exceptionally good, but space forbids my going into detail about them and other seedlings. The long rows of "babies" hinted at what is in store for next year and the next.

After being treated to a splendid dinner, a real country one that made the table groan with the weight of good things fresh from the Sass farm, I was taken to Hans Sass' place seven miles distant. There were many visitors here, for the flower game is being more commercialized by Hans than by Jacob Sass.

Hans is the older of the two brothers, and his facility for calling to mind the exact Ridgway color tone of an iris, the parentage, and details connected with each cross, is certainly remarkable. Here irises were growing in greater numbers than in any place I had ever seen, or did see on any of my later visits with other growers. They were in the yard, in the garden beyond, in the orchard, up on the hill; they strayed out into the wooded areas surrounding the main plantings, and then I learned that the newer seedlings,—hundreds of thousands of them!—were in the upper field and orchards. Most of our present hybridizers are specializing on Dominion blood, or on mesopotamica, or some other special strain. But the Sasses are using multitudes of combinations, and are working in their own successes such as Midgard, King Tut, Balduin and Buto. And the diversified character of their seedlings is evidence of this cosmopolitan parentage.

Here I saw Doxa for the first time, producing its big creamy, olive-tinted blossoms in such profusion as to almost kill the plants. Here, too, were blends of the Ophelia type, with brown, henna, orange, pink and cream, as the predominating color note. Euphony and Firefly were attractive ones of this type, but many others were awaiting introduction. A beautiful thing, positively unique, was No. 23–29. It was a medium sized bloom, well held and of good shape, in tones of apricot and orange-red. Another flower that attracted my fancy was No. 35–29, very red in general effect, and on a good stem. It was a cross of King Tut with Cardinal. Redwing should be better known, as it is much larger and taller than Allies, with all good points. Balduin is surely one of the finest things in commerce, and is certain to become a favorite. It is described as manganese violet, but the description gives little idea of its splendid form, huge size, absolute hardiness, and lovely pleasing color that is neither lavender nor purple, nor pink nor red. Its a medley of all these. Eventide was growing in a clump that had more blossoms on it than any single iris plant I have ever seen. The foliage was hardly visible, and the mass effect of the myriad blooms in pastel lavender-brown was bewitching. As an individual stalk it was not so noticeable.

I could write on for hours of the things in Hans Sass' garden. Big lilac bushes, fine specimens of the Kolkwitzia (Beauty Bush), the extensive collection of beardless and other iris species, the hemerocallis, the field of clean and vigorous peonies, and so on. But I still have some thousands of miles ahead to tell you about.

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Keller, of St. Joseph, Missouri, were in Omaha on the same day I was, and kindly offered to take me in their car as far as Kansas City. We stopped en route at Hamburg, Iowa, to call on Miss Sarah Toedt. We found her to be one of the most enthusiastic growers in the game, and she has developed her iris business until it now occupies about a half-dozen parcels of land in all sections of the town of Hamburg. She is a great booster for the Sass varieties, and showed some very well grown specimens of Midgard. Her collection of Siberians is quite complete.

After stopping again along the route to look over the establishment of the Henry Field Seed Co., at Shenandoah, Iowa, we arrived in "St. Joe" that evening in time to see the iris planting of Mrs. Keller. She grows a number of the French and English importations, as well as quite a selection of the Sass irises. A seedling of Romola parentage was in bloom, but I was too late to see it at its best. The texture was very heavy, and the color exceedingly rich, somewhat redder than the parent.

I was a guest of the Kellers that night, and the next day, when they drove me to Kansas City. Before we left St. Joe we visited the garden of Judge Vories to see the wonderful collection of Peonies. At Kansas City the Iris and Spring Flower Exhibit was under way, and they have a very live and energetic organization to handle it. Mrs. Rowell and Miss Stoner were most active in the iris section, and they had on display many varieties from their own garden, as well as some of Mr. Grinter's seedlings. The most noticeable thing there was Grand Monarch, Mrs. Rowell's introduction of last year. It is really a super-iris, and specimens of it I chanced to see in gardens visited later bore out my first impressions of it. The color is brighter and richer than that of Morning Splendor, with probably more of a contrast in falls and standards, with an intense orange beard. The variety Kansas attracted both Mrs. Keller and myself, and later that evening we visited Mr. Walter Timmerman on the Kansas side of the river and saw it blooming in his garden. He had several good seedlings, but this one was outstandingly fine. The color is in some respects akin

to that of Freida Mohr, but it is a flower of entirely different shape, being quite rounded, very large, and on a three to four foot stalk. Hardiness, of course, is unquestioned.

The next morning I was driven over the Country Club development by Mr. Smith, the representative of the J. C. Nichols Co. While it has nothing to do with irises, this was one of the most enjoyable and educational trips I have ever taken, and it is a pity that civic officials the country over can not view the results which years of planning and effort have accomplished in the way of community and residential district development.

In the afternoon I called at Mrs. Rowell's garden, but because of the lateness of the season and the fact that she had cut most of her best specimens for the show, I did not see much in the way of bloom. Both she and her sister, Miss Stoner, are charming people to meet. I learned from others that they are chiefly responsible for the interest in irises in the Kansas City section of the country.

A short drive to Independence brought us to Mr. Grinter's garden, and I was, indeed, surprised to see the quality of his numerous seedlings. He has a number of good reds, mostly of Morning Splendor blood, but one of them was very good and I think should bear introduction when there is enough stock. However, my real thrill came when I was shown a huge blend of the Asia type, the first time I have seen anything to surpass this famous sort. It was of the type with flaring falls, heavy in substance, the lower half of the standards almost pure gold. Of all the fine things I saw on my entire trip, only two or three seemed to me to have equal merit. It dominated the garden, and should be welcome in any company. I understand it will probably be christened "Classic."

At Mr. and Mrs. K. L. Browne's in Kansas City, Kansas, I was shown about the "Olde Tyme Gardens," and the name is truly well chosen. Here all the natural advantages of the 75 year old home and its site have been capitalized upon, and it is a pleasure, indeed, to wander among the fern and rock lined paths, with the river and hills in the distance.

As my train pulled out of Kansas City on Sunday night I felt that I was leaving all friends behind, for not only had I been most cordially entertained by the residents of that city, but I had bid goodbye to the Kellers, who, for three days, had been my hosts.

driving me in their car to all the various points of interest. But I had plenty of things to look forward to, the first of these being the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, where the Iris Society maintains a test garden. After a couple of hours stroll through the gardens and conservatories, I called on Dr. Moore, the director, who turned me over to Mr. Kohl, who has charge of the iris planting. I regret having to say it, but this test garden is certainly anything but a credit to the society, and must convey a hideous impression of what the modern iris is like to the thousands of visitors who view the planting each spring. There is a woeful lack of new and improved varieties. Blame should not be laid at the door of those connected with the garden, however, for it is up to members and especially commercial growers to see that these test gardens get the new and meritorious varieties, and that the antique sorts which are growing there are at least kept in the background of the picture.

Upon hearing that the Cincinnati growers were experiencing an advanced season, I decided to go there next, instead of waiting until after the meeting at Lexington. As soon as Mrs. Emigholz learned that I was in the city she sent her son, Robert, to my hotel to get me, and this fine young chap took me to see the two leading amateur iris growers of Cincinnati, if not of the entire country. First we drove to the home of Mrs. Taft, where Mr. Wareham has growing many hundreds of seedlings of Dominion parentage, some of them as fine as anything in existence. He was one of the very first to work with Dominion in his crosses. And so it was natural to expect he should have seedlings that were advancements on many of the named varieties in commerce, and I was not disappointed! Some of his earlier ones, growing in quantity, were inclined to the red shades, with many of them showing yellowish or bronzy standards. All were typically Dominion as regarded texture, and it cannot be denied that this strain is supreme in this respect. But in the newer bed were the real surprises. Two great yellows, a beautiful white of splendid size, several blends, and a monster flower of Cardinal characteristics, are foremost in my memory. This last one was almost worth my whole trip,—I will never forget it. But one can only heave a sigh when leaving, for not one of these is available to the iris hungry world. No one who has been fortunate enough to see the Wareham collection can help feeling that somehow it "just don't seem right" that such fine things should be denied to the rest of us.

From the Taft estate we went direct to the home of Robert and Mrs. Emigholz, the Kenwood Iris Gardens. The entire planting was put in within the last year or so, and so it appeared a bit thin, but the collection included most of the worthwhile varieties in commerce, and most of them were well grown. Mrs. Emigholz had flowered a few of the recent introductions from California, and I think with greater success than I found generally to be the case in the Ohio section, at least under open field conditions. She had a very good specimen of Beau Sabreur, one of Williamson's 1930 introductions, and the only plant of this I saw outside of the originator's own garden. It is, to my mind, the very best of the new variegatas. This garden is so situated that there is marvelous opportunity for future development in the way of rock gardens, pools, and a running stream, all of which would greatly enhance the beauty of the iris display. Rock plants seemed to take kindly to the soil and other natural conditions present. The young man, Robert, was very much up on the iris game, and deeply interested in it.

In the afternoon we called at the country home of Dr. Wylie McL. Ayres. I had been told to be on the lookout for some new surprises in the way of seedlings in this garden, and it took only a glance to convince me that I was amidst some of the finest irises ever produced. One thing immediately caught the eye and held it. That was the big blue-black "Meldoxa" (temporarily named) which was the sensation of Dr. Ayres' garden for the second successive year. One might compare it with Swazi or with Dominion itself, but in size, depth of tone, and gorgeousness generally, it shaded anything I have ever seen, bar none. Growing beside it, and with a more generous display of blossoms, was his new Red Dominion, the best red iris I have come in contact with. These two were the gems of the garden, but there were countless others of great merit; pink Dominions, white Dominions, Dominion plicatas and blends. And they were truly fine in every way. It was not merely so much a problem to find the good ones as to select a poor one. Perhaps my third choice would have been a rich brown blend, in some ways calling to mind Mead's King Midas, yet different and exceedingly handsome. Still another was of the color type of Candlelight, larger, more rounded in shape and on a heavy four foot stalk. Then there was a lovely thing in tones of coral, and a big blend of apricot and yellow.

I had a long and most enjoyable chat with Dr. Ayres. He is surely one of our most enthusiastic amateurs. He believes in putting on the market only the cream of the good ones, and is constantly striving for certain definite results in his breeding work. He lamented the fact that I was a few days too late to catch some of the good ones which had already faded. But this comment was unnecessary, as I felt amply repaid for the time I spent in his garden and the opportunity to meet and discuss irises with him.

That evening I left for Lexington and the annual meeting. Doubtless this will be fully covered by someone in this same issue of the BULLETIN. Following the meeting I began the second lap of my iris journey, stopping again in Cincinnati, going then to Columbus, thence to Fort Wayne and Mead's, down to Bluffton to see Williamson's things, and to Van Wert, ran onto some real finds in Elkhart, Indiana, and took in the Freeport show and Mrs. Pattison's garden at its best, spent a few hours with Boehland at Rockford, and finally wound up a glorious three weeks in St. Paul with Schreiner. I shall try to cover these in the next issue of the BULLETIN.

(*To be continued*)

VISIT TO FRANCE, MAY 25–27, 1930

GEOFFREY L. PILKINGTON

Accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Murrell (Orpington Nurseries), Mr. G. N. Bunyard (Messrs. Geo. Bunyard & Co.), Mr. R. G. Walter (Messrs. R. Wallace & Co.), Mr. and Mrs. Sydney B. Mitchell, of Berkeley, California, I went to France to see the new Irises. Mr. Franklin B. Mead, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, joined us a part of the time.

It was a great pleasure to have the company of so many shining lights of the Iris World, and particularly to be able to hear the considered opinions of our American co-enthusiasts. I think we all expected to see some fine new Irises at Messrs. Cayeux's, and in this we certainly were not disappointed.

The day on which we arrived in Paris, namely, Sunday, May 25th, it was very wet and rain fell almost incessantly, so we had to content ourselves with a visit to the Paris show, where we obtained a slight foretaste of what we might expect on the morrow.

We motored out to Petit-Vitry on Monday morning and were met at the nurseries by Mons. Ferdinand Cayeux and Mons. Bonvallet. It was a perfect day as regards weather, and we were soon in the thick of the Irises. We first saw the plantings of the varieties now in commerce, amongst which I noted the following:

(N. B.—xxx signifies a really high class Iris; xx one not so good, rating 80 to 85; x a desirable variety.)

xxx *Anne Marie Cayeux.* This is very fine. A flower of a wonderfully smooth texture and appearance; colour a soft slatey heliotrope, the falls having a bluish blaze in the centre. A fairly well branched spike; 3 ft.

Nêne. Flowers of immense size, otherwise of little interest as they lack substance, and the standards have a tendency to flop. Tall, well branched stems; 4 ft.

xx *Madame Serouge.* Large flowered and very dark in colour; standards, violet; falls, blackish purple, and semi-flaring; standards held rather wide open; 3 ft. 6 in. A "Black Prince" seedling.

Cantilene. Large flowered variety on tall branched stems. Of very ordinary colouring.

xx *Helios.* This is a fine "garden" yellow, and, to my mind is preferable to "Pluie d'Or" for general effect. Flowers are of large size with very wide standards of pure lemon yellow. Falls are of similar colouring with very fine reticulations, light brown in colour, at the haft; beard, golden; 3 to 3½ ft.

xxx *Claude Aureau.* A larger "Nibelungen" and much brighter in tone. The falls have pale edges and are of velvety substance. The type of spike is after "Bruno," but is somewhat dwarf, about 2½ ft. This is certainly an advance in "variegatas."

xxx *Deputé Nomblot.* This is, I consider, Mons. Cayeux's best 1929 introduction. A descendant of Bruno bearing fine, tall spikes 4 ft. in height, and well branched. The flowers are of a beautiful round shape and of great size and substance.

Mr. F. B. Mead described the colour as a rosy Mrs. Valerie West, and the flowers when seen in sunshine certainly display a very rosy effect. Awarded the Dykes Memorial Medal by the S. N. H. F. for 1930.

x *Frivolité.* This is described as an improved Marquisette, being of a somewhat deeper shrimp-pink colour.

It will attract the ladies, I have no doubt, and in the distance gives a nice colour effect, but I consider that it is, like Marquisette, a disappointing Iris "close up"; 3½ ft.

xx *Fascination.* An undoubtedly good light rosy purple pallida; very fine flowerng; 3½ ft.

x *Polichinelle.* A large flowered variety of unusual colouring. The flowers are carried on rather dwarf and little branched stems. The standards are Mother of Pearl, flushed olive; falls, deep plum with lighter, bronzy-yellow, edges. The height is about 2½ ft. It wants putting on to a taller well branched stem, and would then deserve one more x.

x *Pluie d'Or.* Unquestionably good as a really yellow Iris, carried on tall stems. Garden effect not so good as "Helios."

x *Vert Galant.* I was frankly disappointed in this Iris, which gained the Dykes Medal for 1929. It is a fine iris undoubtedly, the height and branching of the stem, and carriage of the flowers are perfect, but the flowers themselves lack brilliance. If Deputé Nomblot had not been in the field I might have judged differently; 4 ft.

xx *Zampa.* A very good mid-blue self of fine form, tall in spike and well branched; 3 to 3½ ft.

x *Yves Lassailly.* A very free flowering variety, the flowers carried on tall, well-branched stems. Standards, pure white; falls, white with a suffusion of pale blue in centre, slightly reticulated pale brown at haft. The falls are horizontal. Height 4 ft.

Farandole. Standards light rosy lilac; falls purplish rose with paler margins. The colour contrast here is pleasing, but the flowers, which are of great size, lack substance. Height 3 to 3½ ft.

xx *Dr. Chobaut* (Denis). A lavender blue self of very fine form. May be described as a smaller flowered "Santa Barbara." 3 ft.

xx *Evolution.* Standards coppery bronze; falls flaring and of similar colouring with large lilac blaze in the centre. Height 3 ft. This is a most attractive Iris.

Seedlings.

The notes I took on these are so voluminous that I propose to deal with only those which showed particular "advance," even though many of them will never appear in commerce, being surpassed in many cases by their own nearest of kin. For the readers sake I have dealt with the "plicatas" and "yellows" separately.

Plicatas. Mons. Cayeux has made great strides in the production of this section, and has obtained immense size of bloom in some cases, and also great height of stem, but still lacks the perfect combination required to produce really good "form."

No. 4328. This is the largest Iris flower I have ever seen; the falls alone measured 4½ x 3½ inches. The stem is 2½ ft.

only in height, and is, on account of the huge size of the flowers, absurdly crowded. The colour is violet brown heavily dotted on dull white ground. The plant is useless except for breeding purposes.

No. 4331. A very large plicata of "San Francisco" colouring though not as tall; 3½ ft.

xx *No. 4388.* Another plicata on the lines of "San Francisco" but finer than the foregoing. This again lacks the necessary substance for so large flowers. Height 4½ ft.

xx *No. 4342.* A plicata of good form and size of bloom, rather dwarf and not sufficiently branched. Height 2 ft. Colour, pale "Zouave."

No. 3636. A tall, heavily dotted plicata with rather domed standards, which are too tall for the falls. Well branched spike; 4 ft.

xx *Cydalise.* A yellow plicata. This is really yellow, and not a chamois buff as in the case of "King Karl." The form of flower is not perfect as the standards, in this case also, seem somewhat to overbalance the falls in size. The spike is about 2¾ ft. high and is rather high branched. It is, however, a most promising and interesting "advance" in plicatas.

Yellows.

xx *No. 4420. Roboliol.* A very deep clear yellow "self," tall and well branched. Flowers of about the size of "Shekinah." Height 3½ ft.

xxx *No. 4390. "Soleil d'Or."* The finest yellow we saw, which impressed us all immensely. Standards, butter yellow, beautifully held; fall semi-flaring, of the same colour, very slightly paler at the point of the beard. Beard itself is bright orange. Well branched spikes. Height 3 to 3½ ft. Flowers of the size of Pallida Dalmatica. A "Pluie d'Or seedling."

xx *No. 4414. "Phoebus."* Standards yellow; falls paler, with a paler blaze in centre, approaching white. Beard deep orange. Nicely branched stems, 3 ft. high. Flowers of good size and nice form.

xx *No. 3589.* Very like the foregoing, only a little paler in colouring. Personally I prefer this one to Phoebus. Mons. Cayeux, however, thinks otherwise.

x *No. 3563.* Standards domed, primrose; falls of the same colour with slight brown reticulations at haft; beard lemon yellow. Well branched stems, 3 ft. (After "Helios" but not so good.)

xx *No. 4224. "Horace."* Standards pale primrose; falls of similar colour but darker round the edges. Beard golden. Fairly branched stems. This is a beautiful form. A few

light brown reticulations were visible at the haft, which puts this into the "Helios" class—*i.e.*, Not a pure yellow.

Various seedlings.

xx *No. 4305. "Lux."* A most attractive Iris and very telling in the mass. Standards pinkish fawn; falls, raspberry red paling to light chestnut at the edges and haft. Stems 3 to 3½ ft.; rather high branched. Flowers of average size.

xxx *No. 4349. "Thebes."* Standards, palest bronze yellow, suffused lavender; falls, pale lavender with gold suffusion at the shaft; beard golden. Very fine branching habit; large flowers of moderate substance. Height of stem 42 inches. This is one of the finest Irises I saw. Mr. F. B. Mead stated that this was the most remarkable plant he had seen at Mons. Cayeux's.

xxx *No. 4350.* Standards, smoky lavender overlaid gold; falls flaring, lavender blue with light olive-brown suffusion at the haft. Beard golden. Flowers of good substance and perfect form combined with great size. Height 4 ft. A magnificent Iris.

x *No. 4364.* An improved "Peau Rouge" with very large flowers, but rather dwarf flower spikes.

xx *No. 4368.* Standards, biscuit brown; falls of similar colour. with pale lavender central blaze, and lit with orange at the haft. A fairly well branched spike. Height 3 ft.

xxx *No. 4396. Felicité.* Can be described as a much improved "Argynnis." Standards, honey yellow; falls, very velvety, of garnet brown colour with dull yellow margins; beard bright orange. Large flowers. Well branched flower spikes. 32 inches in height.

x *No. 3633.* A very brightly coloured seedling of good velvety substance. Standards honey brown; falls, garnet (or red-brown). Height 2 ft. Of "King Midas" colouring, but not as good.

xx *No. 4339. Sydney B. Mitchell.* A very large flowered red purple, almost a "self." Well branched stout stems, 4 ft. in height. Standards inclined to be rather floppy.

xx *No. 4376. Serenité.* Standards, soft grayish lavender, shading to yellow through the centre; falls, light purple and semi-flaring with white reticulations at the haft. Moderately branched spikes. 4 ft.

xx *No. 4384.* Standards, dull smoky lavender; falls, lavender with brownish margins and brown suffusion at the haft. A well branched stem carrying large flowers of nice form and very fair substance. Height 4¼ ft. The colour can roughly be described as that of "Don Quixote"—without yellow.

x *No. 4354.* A much taller "Nibelungen" with semi-flaring falls, and flowers of fairly good substance. Well branched spikes. 4 ft. in height.

x *No. 3476.* A seedling with flowers of medium size, after the colour of Caroline E. Stringer. 3 ft.

x *No. 3561.* A larger "Autocrat" with a very dwarf stem.

x *No. 3557.* A better form of "Polichinelle" having semi-flaring falls, and carried on well branched stems. Height about 3¼ ft.

As I stated at the beginning of these notes, I went to Mons. Cayeux's nursery expecting to see something good, and was certainly much impressed by what I saw. I think the thing that impressed me most was the enormous scale on which Mons. Cayeux goes in for the production of new seedlings.

He must make thousands of crosses annually. Whilst we were there Mons. Bonvallet was almost continuously engaged in pollinating, and the spikes of most of his new seedlings were literally festooned with labels denoting crosses made. Furthermore, Mons. Cayeux and Mons. Bonvallet know a good Iris when they see one, and the hybridizing is carried out on considered lines.

Amongst his large squalens type of productions there is a strong evidence of the "Bruno" influence, but by careful selection and hybridizing he has got away from the close branched, knuckled spike of the earlier "Dominions," and has retained the characteristic stoutness of stems, and in most cases, also, has added to their height and branching. In attaining this he has lost, in many cases, some of the velvetiness of texture so necessary in large flowered Irises, but in "Deputé Nomblot" he has got an almost perfect plant in all respects.

It is notable that one finds quite a number of varieties and new seedlings displaying that curious slatey blue colouring, usually confined to the falls in the form of a central blaze, and reminiscent of the old Ochracea coerulea (Sunset). In "Anne Marie Cayeux," however, we have this colour predominant and also a flower of the most amazing smoothness of texture.

The Plicatas (seedlings) I saw were really very remarkable, particularly when one considers that the great height and size of bloom has been obtained without the use of Riccardi.

The yellows also are remarkable, and there is no doubt that next year will bring a further crop of these, as Mons. Cayeux is working hard on them, and will not rest until he has got what he considers to be the "last word" in yellows.

In conclusion:—Of the varieties in commerce I consider the best five to be "Deputé Nomblot," "Anne Marie Cayeux," "Evo-

lution," "Claude Aureau" and "Helios," and have no hesitation in strongly recommending them to fellow-enthusiasts in the States.

Visit to the Nurseries of Vilmorin, Andrieux et Cie

On May 26th, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Murrell, Messrs. G. N. Bunyard and R. G. Walter, I motored out to Verriéres in the morning. It was a lovely day. Mons. Meunissier showed us around. We first saw sundry batches of seedlings, amongst which, honestly speaking, I saw nothing of really outstanding merit. Two plants, however, attracted my attention. No. A. I. 25., a nicely branched light-coloured variegata, about 2 ft. in height, and a "plicata" of rather novel colouring, having smoky lavender standards and falls white with a heavy edging of smoky blue, the centre of the falls white blazed with a blue midrib line. The spike was little branched and 2 ft. in height. Passing on to the general collection, I noted the following:

xxx *Fra Angelico.* This is really a most effective Iris and one which I have seen doing well in many gardens this summer. Not tall, but a "front of the border" plant.

x *Debussy.* A dainty dwarf growing variety with flowers of cream and rose-pink.

x *Le Correge.* The colour here is certainly outstanding but I do not like the high branched spike, nor the hounds-ear form of the falls.

xx *Sirius* (Vilmorin). Most attractive, particularly in mass. About 2 ft. in height. Standards palest biscuit with lilac suffusion; falls, lavender, with brown reticulations at haft.

x *Mignard.* A rose-pink bicolor (light rosy violet is perhaps a more correct description) having rather small flowers borne on fairly well branched stems. Height 2½ ft.

x *Hussard.* A showy blue.

x *Etoile de Matin.* A very free flowering cream, with occasional violet streaks. Good for massing.

xx *Cassiopée.* Very free flowering variety 3 to 3½ ft. high, with good sized flowers. A dull grey lavender colour effect. The flower spikes seemed noticeably stiff and erect.

x *Alliés.* This variety was a mass of bloom, and in the bright sunshine prevailing, looked very "red." A dwarf spike about 2 ft. in height, and very valuable for the front of the border.

Andromede. A smoky slatey blue, but the flowers struck me as being too floppy.

x *Vega.* This can be described as a darker or ("smoky") "Darius." Free flowering. 2 ft. high.

I also noticed "Ballerine," "Magnifica," "Parisiana," and "Mlle. Schwartz" in good form, and flowering in great profusion.

It will be gathered from these notes that the Irises noted were mostly of the free flowering variety, eminently suitable for mass effect, and for use in the front of the border, as they are mostly between 2 and 3 ft. in height.

IRIS VISITS (IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA)

GRACE STURTEVANT

Our iris sightseeing in Berkeley began very promptly for before we had breakfasted at the hotel on our arrival we heard from Mr. Salbach and he called for us on his way to the iris in his exhibit at the flower show which gave us an opportunity to see the show and study a fine collection of wild flowers including iris. The outstanding exhibit was a mountain scene, the foreground a bit of desert, ferns and redwoods planted on the steep slope with other plants which we had seen growing in similar situations while a miniature canyon with a little stream furnished conditions for swamp and water loving flowers. It rivaled in interest and compared well with Mrs. Hoyts' large desert exhibit which so many of us saw in the East. All the exhibits were of high quality but shows under canvas are, to my mind, under great disadvantages from the dimmed light and indoor atmosphere,—a total disconnection between the flowers and their natural surroundings.

Climbing up short steep hills, round sharp curves we had a glance at Prof. Essig's house and seedling plot as we passed and caught glimpses of the bay with San Francisco in the distance and soon after reached the Salbachs where we were greeted by Mrs. Salbach whose whole-hearted hospitality and plans for our visit made every moment of our stay full of interest and pleasure.

Theirs is an ideal situation, from the road and the house with its surrounding ornamental planting, the irises, a field of about five acres, stretch down the slope to a valley road bordered by tall eucalyptus trees silhouetted against the soft green mountains that seem to rise directly behind them and make a wonderful background for the blocks of irises in full flower. The healthy even vigor of the plants and the profusion of bloom showed a method

—Photo by V. Edlmann

Frieda Mohr in the foreground, the Essig house beyond.

of cultivation that could not be bettered and we saw in quantity many rare varieties which I had only seen before as clumps, or as specimen stalks so we were able to study mass effects and garden values.

The whites of course came first, Purissima for exhibition and Shasta for garden masses easily out-distanced all others. Snow White held its own pretty well in the garden, but Taj Mahal and White-and-Gold, Michelline Charraire, and Theseus do not want to be planted to their immediate vicinity. Theseus makes a lovely low mass, like La Neige, an old favorite of mine, but accented with the conspicuous orange-yellow beards,—I like the form and finish. Edith Cavell has a dusky center which mars its purity. Cygnet was looking well and seemed a favorite.

I do not know that I can remember even all the blues and purples that I liked, and there were dozens that I took no note of as I did not care for them, but there was one blue among Prof. Essig's seedlings that I hope will be introduced. San Gabriel is without question one of the best irises for California, we saw masses of it, the tall graceful well branched stalks still bearing

many of the large pink-lavender blossoms. It commenced to flower in February. Ten weeks or more of good bloom! With us it is a good lavender in the class of Mlle. Schwartz and Mother-of-Pearl,—comes and goes with them and is not remarkably outstanding. For California it is the type that they should work for in other colors, though if they want only lavender under their hot sun I cannot imagine a lovelier effect than a clump of San Gabriel casting sharp shadows against the cream-yellow cement wall of a house. California Blue (Essig) is in this class, it has enormous flowers of a deep lavender blue carried on tall strong well-branched stalks. It is deeper in color than Pacific (which is the color of Santa Barbara) and taller. Pacific makes a fine mass and does not resemble Santa Barbara in form. California Blue does not seem to like conditions in my garden, but Pacific flowered quite normally. El Capital also makes a fine mass; the flowers are very large. Lady Charles Allom is a dark lavender

—Photo by V. Edlmann

Iris Padre (Mohr-Mit.).

blue self of fine form. Dulcinea was beautiful in mass giving a very clear blue effect. Its stems were upright and strong while here it twists and sometimes writhes upon the ground. San Domingo is a splendid dark-blue-purple. Monterey is a red-purple nearly as fine. Karen grew well in Berkeley and made a rich splash of color among the red toned new-comers such as Mauna Loa and San Luis Rey, both large and fine,—lighter and clearer in color than Morning Splendor which does not grow well in California. We saw here a fine clump of Mr. Baker's Sikh. It is similar to Mrs. Valery West and much more like it that that it is like Grace Sturtevant which is the richest in color of the three. Padre belongs in this class and is even larger than Sikh. Sass' Red Wing and King Tut, and Indian Chief were in flower and were attractive. They do not grow well in California nor does Caroline E. Stringer, or Trostringer, probably because of their variegata ancestry. Rose Mitchell and Rosultra were fine flowers on tall stalks. We did not see them in mass as they were of too recent introduction, but I imagine that they will give a similar garden effect to Roseway or Georgia, but finer. The growth was

—Photo by V. Edlmann

A view across the Salbach fields.

vigorous. The block of Frieda Mohr (Mohr-Mitchell) was wonderful, the finest pink bicolor and the largest that I have ever seen. I was glad that it was so fine and impressive, one that no American will regret having been named for Mrs. Mohr.

The only variegata that we saw growing well anywhere in California was Rialgar. All my introductions grew well here in Berkeley, and Cameliard, Endymion, Ishtar and Lamia had no close competitors. Outside of those already mentioned I saw few that I considered First Class, though it was hardly fair to judge those newly set and with a single stalk as had Dauntless which later we saw in Nashville in Mr. Connell's garden and thought well deserved the medal that it received.

Prof. and Mrs. Mitchell have a fascinating bungalow and garden of iris seedlings and many other bulbs and interesting plants, adjoining the Salbach garden and with that rainbow sweep of color between them and the mountain background. Next to the house was a bank covered with I. Douglasiana which we had seen only as single plants growing wild. It varies widely in color, from white through cream and pink to dark purple and all were lovely,

—Photo by V. Edlmann

Iris douglasiana at Prof. Mitchell's.

delicate, graceful flowers. Prof. Mitchell had some beautiful seedlings which we shall surely want to grow as soon as they are introduced. I noted an ivory white and yellow, a yellow blend and a yellow, but many that Prof. Mitchell had asked me to look at with a critical eye were not yet in flower. It was the same with Mr. Salbach's seedlings, we saw some very promising ones but he wrote me later that some much finer had flowered after we had left. Both Prof. Mitchell and Mr. Salbach are keen judges and the seedlings that pass inspection will be well worth growing.

We visited Prof. Essig's plot of seedlings twice and enjoyed as much their restful hospitality. It is odd how often the iris gardens that we visited had wide views and picturesque settings, due perhaps primarily to the same love of beauty that makes them iris fans. The Essig's house is perched on a steep hillside, the lawn and front door are on the level of the road but behind the garden is a series of terraced beds full of fascinating combinations of colors and plants, in the center is a little pool and fountain and it was next this that we saw a seedling fulva full of pink blossoms. The color of the seedlings of Fulva ranged from a clear deep yellow through pink to the terra cotta red that is pictured in "The Genus Iris." The growth is effective and graceful and the plants were free flowering. It has lived over quite a period of years in my garden in Massachusetts but was a shy bloomer. I shall try it again. From the big window overlooking the garden is a panorama of the Bay with the Golden Gate and islands, and with San Francisco opposite. In front of the house across the road was a lot stretching up the hill and full of seedling plants in full bloom. Most of them were so large that if it had not been for a few of ordinary size I should have thought it must have been the soil and exposure that was responsible for the huge blossoms with stems and leaves to match. I should like to introduce a white which I saw there, larger than Shasta but quite distinct in form, and a pale blue that had a most lovely finish added to all other good points.

We were unfortunately unable to see Prof. James' garden but we did call on Mrs. Scudder at Novato, and on Mrs. Hardee at Kentfield, while on our way to see the big trees at Muir Memorial Park. There we found peace personified and grandeur indescribable. A memorable ending for an ideal iris pilgrimage in California which included so much never-to-be-forgotten besides the

iris and the delightfully friendly and hospitable Californian people,—even a total eclipse of the sun.

As I look back on the iris gardens as a whole it seems as if the majority in California gardens were blues and whites. Of course there were many exceptions, such as Mirasol, Rayo de Sol, Mauna Loa, Frieda Mohr, etc., but not enough to dominate the garden color. In Nashville and Cincinnati red and rose blends predominated, with a yellow or a dark blue for variety while hereabouts in the East light blends and yellows outweigh the darker colors.

IRIS EXHIBITIONS—1930

THURA TRUAX HIRES

The Boston members of the Society and The Massachusetts Horticultural Society staged a combined Iris, Rhododendron and Azalea show June 7th and 8th at Horticultural Hall. Undoubtedly this was one of the largest exhibitions of Irises ever held in the east. Nearby garden clubs arranged shadow boxes, in which Irises predominated, that were at all times the center of interest. The Silver Cup, offered by Mrs. Frazier, of Swampscott, for this class was won by the Lowell Garden Club, Miss Florence Nesmith having set up a very effective arrangement, containing Iris pseudacorus, ferns and other wildlings one would expect to find dwelling harmoniously together. In the Society's section of the show Mrs. Thomas Nesmith received the Silver Medal, winning the most number of points with splendid exhibits in many classes. Prof. Hill received an H. M. for his seedling No. 167, a lovely light toned blend, the blooms very nicely placed on widely branched stalks. An H. M. was also given to Mr. Eugene Beaudry for a yellow seedling of splendid form, substance and finish. It is a pale yellow, the bloom very large, the falls broad at the haft. This has been named "Ashtoreth" while Prof. Hill's blend will be named "Sonnet" if the name is approved. In the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's section of the show Mrs. Homer Gage and Mr. Donahue had large collections, both taking several awards. Mr. Donahue showed a very interesting plicata named "Liberty Bell" in one of the specimen stalk classes, taking first prize. This is a nicely finished Iris and should be especially good as a show flower. He

also entered two stalks of Pluie d'Or in separate classes, both equally fine, showing how good it can be when well grown. The Thurlows exhibited Irises for the first time and won awards for their exhibits, which were interesting. It is hoped they will continue to exhibit at the Iris shows. Miss Sturtevant's exhibits were very interesting, containing as they did some of her newer seedlings. Outstanding varieties were Liberty Bell, Micheline Charraire, Pluie d'Or, Colias, Airy Dream, Swazi, Van Cleve, Cardinal, Mrs. Valerie West, Nusku and Day Dream. All were winners in their classes. Rock plants, tree peonies, groups of rhododendrons and azaleas were other interesting flowers shown. Mrs. Clement Houghton exhibited a specimen of Meconopsis Baileyi which created much interesting comment. Mr. Richardson Wright's lecture on "Irises" the first afternoon, proved very interesting to those fortunate enough to be able to attend.

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The Bridgeport, Fairfield, Stratford and Westport Garden Clubs staged a most interesting show in the ballroom of the Stratfield Hotel at Bridgeport on May 29th. Beside the Iris Section there were sections for Peonies, Pansies, Aquilegia, Pyrethrum, Poppies, as well as Flowering Shrubs, Shadow Boxes, Table Decoration and Miniature Arrangements of flowers. The show was beautifully staged, evergreen trees of various sizes being used for a background. These trees were firmly set in novel cement molds which made it possible to place them advantageously about the room. Although the weather had been very cold and wet many beautiful flowers were shown, there being 505 exhibits entered. In the Iris Section the Silver Medal was won by Mr. John B. Wallace, Jr., Mrs. J. R. Demarest winning the Bronze Medal. In quality of bloom this was a very close race but Mr. Wallace entered more classes. Mrs. Demarest's specimens were uniformly of the highest quality, among the finest I have seen. Mrs. Peckham staged a non-competitive exhibit that was most interesting as it contained some of the newest varieties. Mrs. E. H. Davis won the A. I. S. membership given in the novice section. The most outstanding exhibit of this show was an arrangement set up by Miss Florence Hastings, featuring a bit of marsh with growing ferns and Siberian Irises. It was awarded Special Honorable Mention. Mrs. Frederick Carder, of the Cheshire Garden Club, arranged an educational exhibit containing fifty varieties of flowers. In the

artistic arrangement classes for Irises one of the most interesting was an arrangement of beardless Irises naturalistically placed on a pewter platter.

Mr. Bretschneider sent such an interesting group of photographs of the Columbus Iris Society's show, it was decided to feature them in the July BULLETIN so the report of this show was used at that time.

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The Duluth Peony Society held its second Iris show June 17th. Mrs. Schlamann reporting a much better show than the one of 1929. There were twenty-eight classes, Mrs. M. F. Bates winning the Silver Medal and Mrs. J. F. Thompson the Bronze Medal. Mrs. William Tunell was awarded the membership in the Society. Mrs. Thompson also won a leg on the Silver Cup offered by the Duluth Herald. Ribbons were used for awards in many classes. though Iris rhizomes were awarded in a number of classes calling for collections and in the novice group. These rhizomes were donated by Mr. Schreiner, who also gave an Iris rhizome to every exhibitor. Among these prizes were such fine varieties as Mary Barnett, Yellow Moon, Pioneer, Asia, Wedgwood, Gold Imperial, Loudoun, and many others. Mr. Schreiner, as Regional Vice-President, is doing much to promote Iris interest in the northern sections.

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SHERMAN DUFFY, ILLINOIS

This year's iris season in the middle west seemed to swoop down and explode before we fairly realized that it was upon us. It was in many ways a disastrous season. There was wholesale curling up of buds and many gardeners had only half their usual show of irises, if that. A most unfavorable season last summer and fall at planting time, followed by prematurely warm weather in early March starting premature growth followed by April winter and May drought did the rest of the damage. The season was about two weeks earlier than usual which played havoc with show plans and made it a hurry up business all around to hold shows and get good blooms. Freeport's annual iris week, culminating with the two day show, May 31 and June 1, drew the usual big crowds and found the usual high class display of a wide diversity of the

last word in irises as well as artistic displays in model gardens and other features that would do credit to a metropolitan flower show.

It was necessary to keep a lot of iris bloom in cold storage to beat the season but they got to the show in good shape and the usual lavish display was on view.

The Freeport gardens seemed to fare better than many in other sections as there was no lack of bloom there and the season was normal. In Mrs. Douglas Pattison's garden, some of the prize irises acted just as badly owing to too early division under government behest but the great majority were in unusually fine form.

The show was largely attended by tourists from all over the middle west, visitors registering from as far west as Oregon, Oklahoma, and Nebraska, coming for several days. It is an annual gathering of the iris clans. In addition to the foreign importations and new American introductions Mrs. Pattison had a great number of American seedlings under test. They furnished added interest to the general display.

Mrs. Pattison had her usual noncompetitive exhibit occupying one side of the hall with specimen stalks of the newest and finest things and huge baskets of the older standard varieties. All classes had markedly fine entries.

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The small gardens were excellently executed, an ornamental hedge of flowering lilac species of the villosa section being a most interesting feature of one exhibit. The wild flower class was excellently filled and the bouquets and table decorations were of high class. Most striking was the picture reproduction exhibit which put to shame the exhibits at the big Chicago Shows. These pictures, of large size, were reproductions of colored plants from the National Geographic Magazine and were most beautifully done and very striking.

The Freeport Garden Club might well serve as a model in staging shows so excellently are they managed and so promptly organized as to schedule.

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The eighth annual Iris Show staged by the Freeport Garden Club was held at the Masonic Temple May 31st and June 1st. Mrs. W. L. Karcher won the Silver Medal of the A. I. S. as a sweepstakes

prize scoring the highest number of first prize points, and also won the Bronze Medal, awarded for the finest specimen stalk in the show, with a splendid "Frieda Mohr." Mr. G. J. Boehland, of Rockford, won second highest number of points and Mr. R. D. Kuehner took third place. A Certificate of Honorable Mention was awarded to Dr. P. A. Loomis, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, for Seedling No. H-28.

Beside the Iris groups there were the usual additional groups for other flowers, tables and arrangements, which always serve to make the Freeport Show such a lovely one. This year two large wild flower gardens and border plantings vied with the Shadow Pictures in interest. There were four Garden Retreats that were very unusual and lovely.

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June 7th the Highland Park Garden Study Club, of Highland Park, Illinois, held its first Iris Show in the grounds of Mrs. B. K. Goodman. Mother of Pearl shown by Mrs. Frederick W. Voogt, won the Cup offered by Mr. Robert Clark for the most outstanding bloom in the show. The Bronze Medal was awarded to Mrs. Charles C. Brackett. Mrs. Brackett was the winner of the A. I. S. membership also, as Mrs. Clutton, the winner in the group in which it was offered, is a member. Shasta Daisies, Columbine, Peonies, Poppies and Delphiniums formed another group while Flower Arrangements and Tables were shown in other groups.

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The Redlands Horticultural and Improvement Society of Redlands, California, again staged a beautiful Flower Show in which Irises took a prominent place. "Whitehill" won the Bronze Medal, Dr. Berry and Mr. George E. Turner, Jr., being runners-up. Ribbons were awarded to four seedlings exhibited by Dr. Berry, 25–350–2 a 4 foot bicolor of Dominion type, 24–276–1 being an enormous ruffled lavender with Dominion in its ancestry. Dr. Berry says it has the appearance of some oncocyclus blood but is not known to possess any. The following varieties were winners in their classes: Kashmir White, Athene in whites; Parisiana. Jeanne d'Arc, True Delight, Ma Mie, Sacramento, San Francisco and Alameda in the classes for plicatas; Queen Caterina, Dalmatica. Hidalgo, Frieda Mohr and Avalon in the lavenders; Souvenir de Mme. Gaudichau, Conquistador, Alcazar, Edouard Michel, Aeropolis, San Diego Bravura, Ballerine and Imperator in the blue or

purple classes; Carcanet in yellow; Catalosa, Isoline, Jacinto, Moa, Melchior, Mauna Loa, Endymion, Dolly Madison and Athanael in the classes for blends; Argynnis and Rialgar in variegatas and Mildred Presby in the amoena class. In the beardless sections, ochroleuca, Purpurea, hexagona, hexagona alba, Cacique, Alice Eastwood, Whitehill, Halophila, pseudacorus Gigantea were the winning varieties. In the classes for bulbous Irises, Queen Wilhelmina, Heemskerk and von Huchtenburg took awards. El Capitan, Aphrodite, Mrs. Marion Cran, Vert Galant, San Luis Rey, Senorita, Valencia, Ambassadeur, Santa Barbara, Pink Glow, Sequoiah, Aurifero, Conchobar, Golden Promise, and Mount Royal were noteworthy entries in the bearded Iris classes with Warei, douglasiana, Caesar, Savannarum and laevigata in the apogons. Miss Sturtevant and Miss Edlmann were the judges for the Iris groups. The Art Section also contained numerous fine entries in which Irises were utilized. Among the more noteworthy were the R. L. Leeverton's woven yellow basket containing yellow broom, campanula grossekii and yellow and lavender Irises (Darius, pseudacorus, ochroleuca), looking like a splash of sunshine; a bowl arranged by the same exhibitors combined Iris tectorum with rose acacia, scabiosa and creamy pink roses; Mrs. Robinson's entry combining Iris Jeanne d'Arc very effectively with lavender stocks.

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The San Bernardino Iris Society, which was organized last year, held its second show in the Children's Room of the Library, the low shelves and tables proving ideal for the exhibits. As usual at this show, there is keen interest in the native Irises, varieties shown being a light blue hexagona, a deep blue savannarum, fulva, californica, a white hexagona with which Dr. Williams took a first, and purdyii. Too, there were specimens of Notha, ochroleuca, Aurea, pseudacorus, Cacique and stolonifera. In the specimen classes for Bearded Irises, Bruno, Moa, True Charm, Prince Charming, Le Grande Ferre, Louis Bel, Kestrel, Morning Splendor, Tenebrae, Geo. J. Tribolet, Pioneer, Rheingauperle and King Karl were winners. A basket of the dainty Wattii captured a first in the Artistic Display class. Dr. Williams received an H. M. for Seedling No. 2-A, (Sibirica Emperor × versicolor). Mrs. Lothrop took four H. M.'s for seedlings M. D. No. 3, M. D. No. 4, Ra-Lou No. 9 and Mol-D No. 4. The first two are Mme. Durrand seedlings; the third a good yellow (Ramona × Loudoun), and the fourth a large,

pale blend, with Sulphur Yellow standards, the falls Light Wisteria Blue over Sulphur Yellow. Mrs. Lothrop also won the Bronze Medal, Dr. Williams being runner-up.

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Irises proved the greatest attraction at the twenty-third annual flower show of the San Diego (California) Floral Association at Balboa Park. Much of the interest in Irises is being aroused through the efforts of Mrs. Tuttle who learned to know her "Irises" as one of the Washington, D. C., fans. Mr. Miliken took eight perfect specimens of the finest Irises to this show, displaying them in a noncompetitive exhibit. Too, Mr. Erskine-Campbell showed gorgeous specimens of such varieties as El Capitan, Purissima, San Francisco, Frieda Mohr, William Mohr, also not for competition. Mrs. Martha Daley was the winner of the Bronze Medal. Earlier in the year this club won the blue ribbon for an "Iris Walk" designed and built by Mrs. Tuttle at the Encinitis Show.

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Mrs. Bodine writes from Springfield, Missouri, that the Flower Show staged by the Garden Department of Sorosis was a great success, there being a gorgeous showing of Peonies, Irises and Roses. Many other lovely perennials were shown as well as Miniature Gardens, Shadow Boxes, Rock Gardens, Pools, Tables and many other special features. The Bronze Medal was won by Mr. Robert G. Fahrenhorst and the A. I. S. membership by Mr. Charles E. Simon.

* * * * * *

The annual Spring Flower Show of the National Capital Dahlia and Iris Society was held May 20th and 21st in the greenhouses of the Botanic Garden. Many Garden Clubs of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virgina staged attractive exhibits for the Silver Cup offered by The Evening Star, The Montgomery Suburban Garden Club, of Chevy Chase receiving the award. Mr. Simpson staged a non-competitive exhibit of many clumps of Irises, showing the effect when growing. Dr. Sheets made an educational display of 250 varieties, among them being some of the new importations as well as recent introductions from breeders here. Dr. Earl B. White won the Silver Medal and Mr. Howard R. Watkins the Bronze Medal. Honorable Mention Certificates were awarded to Mr. Simpson and Dr. Sheets, the former for his seedling No. 618–16, a finely colored low growing Iris.

REGIONAL REPORTS

From California

Although we had a long, excessive dry spell during the fall and early winter which made it appear that our iris season would be unfavorable this year, a heavy rain during January and February corrected the condition sufficiently so that we had an unusually good season. The iris all over the state at their best during the months of March, April and May with the peak of the season during May. I have been able to visit gardens in both southern and middle California and I do not believe I ever saw such splendid flowers.

Southern California

In April I made a special trip to southern California and had an opportunity to visit the gardens of S. S. Berry and Clarence White at Redlands and C. S. Milliken and several other gardens at Pasadena.

At Mr. Berry's garden I saw very splendid specimens of his Mauna Loa and Osprey which were at their height at the time of my visit on April 14. Dr. Berry also had many other fine seedlings and many standard varieties in bloom at that time.

At the garden of Clarence White I saw many of the finest new varieties growing in glorious profusion. There I saw a Berry seedling as well as those of Mohr-Mitchell and many of the eastern hybridizers. Wm. Mohr, Purissima and Shasta were the outstanding varieties of Mohr-Mitchell hybrids. Mauna Loa and Osprey were as fine as in Dr. Berry's garden. Pacific was the best of my own seedlings. A splendid flower of W. R. Dykes was also in bloom. It was magnificent in size but poor in substance and color. Subsequent flowers higher up on the stalk may have been better.

At the Southern California Iris Gardens (C. S. Milliken), at Pasadena, I had the pleasure of meeting for the first time Miss Sturtevant and Miss Edlmann on April 15. The iris were just beginning to make a good showing in this garden and there I saw many very splendid novelties and standard varieties. Although Uncle Remus was in full flower in my own garden at Berkeley when I left on April the 11th, the first flower was just appearing in Mr.

Milliken's garden. In fact all of the iris in southern California were from one to two weeks behind the iris at Berkeley. Normally they are that much ahead of us.

The Pasadena Flower Show, which was held on April 16 contained at least three major iris exhibits of which those of Mr. Berry and Mr. Milliken were the best. Both of their exhibits were bottle exhibits. They have not yet adopted the garden plan of exhibition

which has been so successfully used here in this region during the past two years. Mr. Berry secured second prize but as the iris were in competition with many other kinds of cut flowers, the rating did not mean anything in so far as iris were concerned. Both of these exhibits were large and represented practically all of the best named varieties. I was especially interested in the great amount of interest shown by those who visited the iris exhibits and the

number of orders taken by exhibitors, indicating a real interest in this part of the state. It appears to me that iris are only just beginning to make headway in California and I am optimistic regarding a very rapid development in their culture during the future.

—Photo by V. Edlmann

Prof. Essig and Miss Sturtevant among the seedlings.

We in the Bay region were very fortunate by visits of Miss Sturtevant and Miss Edlmann who spent nearly a week in our midst. They gave us much splendid advice and encouragement. At their coming on April 27, iris were just beginning to bloom in the Salbach and Mitchell gardens, although several of my early varieties in a warmer area were on the decline. At the present time May 12 the Salbach and Mitchell gardens are at their peak while practically all of my mid-season varieties have ceased to bloom.

—*Photo by V. Edlmann*

A quarter of Prof. Essig's exhibit at the Oakland, Calif., show. Salbach exhibit beyond.

The Spring Flower Show held in Oakland on May 2, 3 and 4, and which was put on by a group of interested growers and garden organizations, was the most successful flower show ever held on this coast. We were fortunate in securing a splendid new and enormous automobile display room of unusual design with tiled green floors with three levels. The whole occupied almost a half acre in area. Iris were given a center location and were exhibited in beds. They

—Photo by V. Edlmann

Mrs. Essig in her rock-garden.

were cut, placed in containers which were embedded in peat; foliage was used to present a naturalistic effect. The largest exhibit which received first award was made by Carl Salbach who featured the Mohr-Mitchell hybrids and also showed practically all of the better known varieties. In all he must have exhibited 50 or 60 different varieties. My own exhibit featuring only my own seedlings

received second award. Of these I think it is only fair to call attention to the very great impression made by three varieties: Modoc, Ahwahnee and Sundew, the former of which received the award for the most outstanding new variety never previously exhibited at an iris show. Some other exhibits of iris in garden form were made. These consisted of clumps of ordinary varieties removed with soil and transformed to the exhibit floor.

The most outstanding feature of this exhibit was the method of showing iris as well as other flowers to the public. The attached photograph will give some idea of this method. Perhaps it is already used in other places but it is certainly not used enough. The success of this large show is perhaps best expressed in stating that the attendance during the two and a half days by actual count was in excess of 36,700 people. On the official opening Friday night, 7000 people crowded the great room.

E. O. Essig, *Regional Vice President.*

From Texas

It gives me great pleasure to report a most remarkable and unexpected arousing of interest in Iris, in this section of the country, that is developing into almost a craze.

Just following your visit (Mr. Wister) to us, there was organized an Iris Society, by the President of our Dallas Garden Club. Mrs. Murrell L. Buckner. This Society, that accepts both amateur and professionals as members, numbered about one hundred members in a few short weeks, and because of the fact that the blooming season was upon us, they planned and accomplished a most beautiful and educational Iris Show in an incredibly short time. Many people have said that it was quite the loveliest Flower Show that has ever been held in the City.

This Show developed the fact that there were many people in the nearby towns that were interested in Iris growing, for there were a number of visitors.

It is the purpose of this Society to make of our Display Garden a thing of beauty; to encourage the planting of Iris in our parks and in the homes; and to hold an Iris Show each season.

Quite a few of the Iris growers have been kind enough to recognize the fact that Iris must be planted in this section before the extreme hot weather, for delivery in July makes for trouble in two ways, the plants are injured by the hot ground before the root

system has begun; and also because those growers who can afford to buy expensive bulbs, do not stay here after the first of July, so the bulbs do not have intelligent care. An experiment in time of planting that Mr. Williamson so generously helped me to try out, has proved very conclusively that April and May is the time we should plant Iris. It is the time we divide our own bulbs.

Please express to the Secretary my sincere good wishes.

Mrs. Gross R. Scruggs.

From Colorado

Dear Mr. Wister: There is little or nothing to report from here that would be of interest or value, I fear.

Very few iris growers in this section yet. Most all except some of the cheaper sorts that I and the few other commercial growers sell, go to points 1000 miles or more away.

There is coming to be a very decided feeling among us few growers that there is little money for us in the cheaper sorts. We are planning to cut down on them, and drop some entirely. Not only that, but instead of trying to realize even a little on some of the most plentiful and cheapest sorts, we are going to simply dig and dump them, making way for newer kinds.

The iris does so well with us here that a variety soon becomes a pest if we hold off too long before selling at least part of the increase.

Winter killing from heaving, etc, almost unknown.

Mighty sorry we folks can not be with you at the Annual Meeting. Hope you have a splendid time and a profitable one.

J. D. Long.

From Minnesota

Iris interest is on the upgrade here,—the Minneapolis and Duluth shows reveal it. The test garden at the Minnesota University Farm is coming along and will reach good proportions by this fall. A display planting at St. Paul and another at Duluth are progressing.

We need a local leader with time to form a local society as it is difficult to get full cooperation among the three existing organizations.

There has been considerable winter-killing in this locality and we have already laid the foundation in breeding for a line of all-hardy varieties.—F. X. Schreiner.

ROMAN NOTES

Countess Giulio Senni

One so often reads in English or American gardening articles complaints of strange foreign names, Chateau du Clos Vougeot or Souvenir de Loetitia Michaud. If the French feel aggrieved by names like Mrs. Erskine Pembroke Thorn or Souvenir of The Old Rose Garden, they keep quiet, but really one feels that in the iris they would have a just grievance over names like Skitchewawg or Shiawassee.

The Iris Bulletin has been so very helpful to me, and I owe so much to your contributors' impressions of iris which I have never seen, that it encourages me to send a few notes on the May flowering in my garden, especially as I had a number of American varieties for the first time. One of the most beautiful was Lona; it began rather tan and apricot, like Mme. Chobaut, but its colour deepened until it was a pale shrimp pink, not unlike Marquisette. It was by the pale blue Myth, and they were very pretty together, although both were quite dwarf. I liked it better than Loudoun or Jean Chevreauz or Jubilee. Joya was a very fine deep blue, somewhat like Amneris and most useful, as there are none too many of the very dark selfs. The best dark purple were Louis Bel and Lady Lilford; the latter almost black-purple and later than Louis Bel. Robert Wallace and Tenebrae were both very good, but what I should call bright bishop's purple.

One may strongly dislike Magenta, and yet be won over by certain fine examples of it, especially if placed against the sun—Millet's La Navarraise and Herodiade were both so brilliant and showy that they could not be spared. Thais is very tall, a very beautiful lilac pink; in the shade it seemed dark, like Caprice, but in the sun was light and lovely, with hardly any beard.

Most of the Vilmorin iris were a disappointment. Van Dyck is a bluish blend of no interest; Aldebaran is dull mauve, rather good if the sun is back of it, but nothing remarkable; Andromède is dull medium lilac and snuff; Cassiopée is like a bigger Nuée d'Orage, putty and lilac blue; Caylus is a lightish pansy bicolour; Antaree is good, a yellow and white blend, but Fra Angelico is

the best, a mixture of yellow and buff which is very like Ochracea Coerulea. They are all big flowers, but to my taste these rather nondescript blends are unattractive. As for blue bicolours, one will have to be very beautiful to win a place in my garden; Simone Vaissiere, Emir, Ann Page, Olivia, E. H. Jenkins were all put in an out of the way corner, and Mme. Laredo followed them.

Messaline (Millet) is a beautiful iris, the colour is like a warm yellow peach with a splash of red suffusing it. Vilmorin's Bellatrix flowered after two years, and is very fine, a warmer Reverie; the standards are almost a Marquisette tone, and the falls rich rose crimson; it is beautiful near reds. Gaulois is very glowing, rich and translucent; the upper part copper flushed yellow, and the falls deep crimson. It was near Numa Rumestan and Marquisette and the three went very well together. Numa Rumestan is my best new red, and is a self, which I like; it is a magnificent color, very rich, very glowing. Pavane is also very fine, like a glass of claret against the light, and Florian somewhat similar, but lighter. Athanael and Lord Lambourne are in the same line of red as these two, but are bicolours with tan standards. Murillo and Auburn are also good, like above, but smaller. Cayeux's Liberty is seldom mentioned, but it is a beautiful iris, warm tan flushed red, light yet rich, and it is such a good contrast to groups of red that I never can have enough of it. Midgard was very pretty, more so than Mary Gibson,—these new pinkish-yellowish-tan-cream blends are charming, and have come just in time to keep step with the beautiful new reds.

I know how beautiful Hernani, Député Nomblot, and Vert Galant are from having once seen them in Paris, but they are not yet in my garden. Coppersmith started like Numo Rumestan, but gradually grew lighter; it is a very fine iris, but more bicolour, and lacks the striking effect of solid red-crimson, port wine, or strawberry that Cayeux iris have.

Rosado is a delightful clear pale pink, like a perfected Queen of May; Dr. Charles H. Mayo is a big and good flower, but more lilac pink than Rosado. Lamia was the warmest of these new pinks, somewhat like Our King in colour, with a touch of soft smoke, and of course much bigger.

Jacinto was a revelation to me, a really beautiful iridescent soft, lilac, half pink, half gray, an exquisite colour and very tall. Ensorceleur was a very pretty pale, cool lilac, the falls delicately

veined and penciled with white, a big flower, but not tall. I liked Eventide so much, a soft grey lavender self, with no beard—in the line of Arsace. Elaine was a tall, big flower and would perhaps be called coarse, but the colour is good, a pinkish lilac, with a very pale beard. Cayeux's Aziyadé was a very beautiful, tall, pale, cool lilac, a very open flower. Avalon also was very fine, a clear lilac, like a deeper Mlle. Schwartz, pinker than Myth or Ensorceleur. Though not at all large, I think Cayeux's Ingress a beautiful flower, a deep lilac self.

Germaine Perthuis and Mlle. Suzanne Woolfry were both very rich, purple blends; Yolande was not as blue as I had hoped, but more violet, like M. Durrand—a very big flower; Gloriae was a better colour. Floridor is always in a class by itself, a dull slate blue without a tinge of violet, a beautiful iris by whites or yellows. I always look for others like it; Commodore so far is the nearest. Perhaps Millet's new Huguette may be another.

Putting the glorious Loetitia Michaud by herself, my best light blues are Corrida, Bluet, Mlle. Yvonne Pelletier, and Jacqueline Guillot—also Duke of York.

Lady Foster and Paragon are larger and very fine, but less what one means by sky blue.

Of the yellows Chalice was the deepest, and Shekinah and Amber seemed very alike, but none of them did really well this first year, and Gold Imperial and Toison d'Or did not flower. I have masses of the old Canari; it is small, but comes late, with the best iris, and is such a clear primrose yellow that it fits in a hundred places where a deeper gold would clash. There are certain neutral colours which are so useful to divide or unite more brilliant iris; one is Cherubim; another is Daniel Lesueur; others are M. Arnal, Nancy Orne and Don Pablo. In an old BULLETIN was a strong commendation of a pallida called Aurora (I think by Mr. Wister). I found it in Barr's catalogue, and it is all it is said to be, tall, not large, but a pale pinkish white on the whole more pleasing than Kalos or Caroline E. Stringer.

Kashmir White and Micheline Charraire were both large and handsome, but too soon over; on the whole I like best the warm white of White Queen and only lament it has not the size and height of the other two. Athene was a disappointment, too streaked with brown.

Some of the older Ricardi hybrids are very handsome; it is hard to choose between Gaspard de Besse and Olivier Perthuis for richness of color, and Lepinoux is a striking blue violet blend. Leverrier every one knows, and Jussieu, which I love, is often disliked because it flops. Gloaming is a new thing in the intermedia—a warm autumn leaf mixture of reddish tan and brown.

Most of the iris arrived in October, and I was going away for some time, so I put them all in pots and only set them out permanently the end of January. Perhaps this is the reason that a much larger percentage of the roots flowered the first year than usually happens. When they were put in the ground, the pot was a mass of roots, and coming in contact with fresh earth evidently gave them a new stimulus to go on. This year I tried putting in pots the rare ones which were to be divided; it is more of a risk to do it in May, facing a long hot summer, but I shall be curious to see if they are more apt to flower this first year.

Cayeux's and Millet's roots always flower the first season, and a very large percentage did of those from the Orpington Nurseries, Mrs. Pattison and Schreiner. On the other hand some good and healthy roots never showed a flower for three years, among them Reverie, which I liked so much and moved over by Imperator, Leverrier and Mme. Henri Cayeux. It is a softer Bellatrix, but a beautiful old rose blend.

A. RENWICK BLAUVELT

A. Renwick Blauvelt, of South Nyack, New York, an iris specialist, passed away on Saturday, July 19th, 1930.

His "Quality Garden" was well named, for, although it contained over 200 varieties of iris, every year a number of the more highly rated introductions crowded out those of lower rating. Then, too, although Mr. Blauvelt's garden was not great in size, in iris time it was indeed great in beauty.

I shall never forget my first visit to his garden. After walking between rows of overflow bloom, I reached the garden gate, and there, spread before me was a glorious sheet of bloom! At first sight, a sea of color, with waves of pink and purple—of blue and white and yellow, which turned into a myriad of enchanted butterflies hovering on tall green wands!

There were white arbors at each side where one could rest and admire. The bird bath was charmingly set in a circle of choice roses. There many rustic bird houses, and the cascade of melody from the wrens added the last touch. I had gone to look, but stayed to buy, and an iris "fan" was born right then and there.

Mr. Blauvelt has been raising his own seedlings for a number of years. One of them, an odd flower of cream white, striped with brown, he gave the amusing name of "Homely." It has been taken to the Iris Society's garden in New York for trial.

A generous man, he planted a fine collection of iris in the grounds of the Nyack Hospital, that those too ill to visit his garden might, nevertheless, enjoy the beauty of the flowers.

Mr. Blauvelt is the father of Charles R. and Raymond O. Blauvelt, who lost their lives while fighting in France during the World War and for whom the Nyack Legion Post is named. One daughter, Mrs. Florence B. Bethman survives him.

An active and interested member of the Association of Blauvelt Descendants and the American Iris Society, and a man with a host of friends, Mr. Blauvelt will be greatly missed.

(Mrs.) Grace A. M. Sayres.

FARR MEMORIAL LIBRARY RESERVATIONS

You will be interested to know that the Farr Memorial Library for "The Middle States" is booked up until the first of March, 1931, in case none of its engagements are cancelled. Handling them in the order received the requests are as follows: Chattanooga, Tenn.; Peoria, Ill.; Waukegan, Ill.; Terre Haute, Indiana; Newton, Kansas; Akron, Ohio; Memphis, Tenn.; Columbus, Georgia; Independence, Mo.; Wamego, Kans.; Paducah, Ky.; Norman, Oklahoma.

In reply to my letter to Berkeley I received a letter from Mr. Mitchell's Secretary stating that they had two requests for the set in their possession but if at the end of that time they had no further requests, they could send it to some of our western applicants. It may be possible, therefore, that I could use it for the two Kansas applications.

KATHERINE H. LEIGH,
Missouri Botanical Garden.

FROM NEW YORK

The Library has been reserved for this year as follows:
April, Poughkeepsie Garden Club, Poughkeepsie, New York.
May, Forest Garden Club, Glenndale, Maryland.
June, Bristol Women's Club, Bristol, N. H.
July, Biltmore Forest, Biltmore, N. H.
August, Hillsdale Garden Club, New York.
September, Knoxville Garden Club, Tennessee.
October, Wake Forest Garden Club, N. C.
November, Mrs. E. S. Turner, Warrenton, Va.
December, Hyattsville Horticultural Society, Maryland.

TID-BITS 25TH

FALL BLOOM

HOWARD WEED

A few varieties of the bearded iris bloom a second time in the fall but such freak blooms are generally small and do not compare with the spring blooms. But blooming of iris in mid-summer has been practically unknown. But last August, I had blooming in my gardens at Beaverton, Oregon, a well-branched stalk bearing 31 distinct buds. Out of the 600 varieties growing in my garden, this one plant of W. C. Terry was the only one to flower tardily. All the others had bloomed during early May and were gone by June.

The standards were light violet blue in color and the falls brilliant crimson purple. Although not an extraordinarily large flower, the great number of blossoms came so close together that they literally smothered the well branched stem which bore them. This variety was originated in 1923 by Amos Perry, of Middlesex, England.

In the event that this variety continues to bloom at such a late time, it would be well worth a place in every iris lover's garden. The possibility exists that it might be made the parent of a new strain of late blooming iris which would do much to increase the popularity of this flower.

(Remember the Oregon climate.—ED.)

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It now being time for garden bedtime stories, reports on experiments with winter protection for irises suspected of being tender or susceptible to winter wet may be appropriate. In the central west, Purissima and Shasta seem to need a cold frame; the former refusing to flourish according to such reports are as at hand at present. Any reports concerning its behavior in other sections would be welcome.

Experiments with the California wax paper cloches, named in the trade, "hotkaps," seem to indicate that they may be of practi-

W. C. Terry in bloom in Oregon.

cal value. Irises wintered under them came through as fresh and green as when covered. The weakness of these cloches is that they are not built to withstand a weight of snow and they collapse under it. A label as a center pole or some similar device is necessary. A ventilating slit should be cut in the side.

Peat moss has proved an excellent mulch to prevent heaving as put on after the ground was well frozen, irises planted late, remained firmly in the ground in the spring where usually they would have been standing on the ends of their roots.

Tar paper or the paper mulch is the handiest and easiest method of keeping irises believed susceptible to wet dry. One experienced grower declares that no cover is necessary provided that the iris is shaded so that it will not thaw. However, most agree that it is safer to keep snow and rains off suspicious iris characters.

Jacob Sass' big new white, Wambliska, mentioned in the last BULLETIN in default of knowing the spelling as sounding like "warm biscuit," has proved the prevailing sensation among western iris fanciers since it took a prize as a specimen stalk at the Lincoln, Neb., show. It is a seedling of one of the Sass seedlings, found to give size and height, × Kashmir White and is a blue white, inheriting the bluish reflections of Kashmir White and is reported by Mr. Sass as reliably hardy. It is also reported as one of the biggest flowers yet exhibited.

Mr. Sass sends some interesting notes concerning his new irises. Those familiar with Sass irises in years past know that while they had beautiful and unusual coloring, none of them had height. Size they also had. The seedlings of the last two or three years have height added to size and fine coloring.

"In regard to my dark purple iris," Mr. Sass writes, "I consider Blue Velvet as one of the very finest dark blue purple irises ever introduced. My dark purple is very different in color and form and has no Dominion blood in it. The standards are blackish violet, overlapping, and the falls a shade bluer than blackish violet, not red purple and not as velvety as Blue Velvet. The bloom is very large on 40 to 42 inch branching stems.

"I have named it Blackamoor, botanical name for negro or what have you?

"I do not claim that it is better than Blue Velvet but I have not seen anything of its color before that was as good or as large."

This iris was much admired by all who visited the Sass farms last spring.

"Now as to the pink," Mr. Sass continues, "28–11 and 28–12 were both fine but many good ones were left. One is a very fine rose pink with a distinct yellow beard. I think some of our new pink seedlings that bloomed for the first time this year will surpass the best I ever had.

"We also found a number of extra fine blends, one in particular with pale yellow standards and yellow falls overlaid pink and the same shape as Pink Satin, I thought extra good.

"There are a number of King Tut seedlings with more brown and we had many new Rameses and Red Wings. I have named a new red, Joycette. This is a good one of 45 inch branching stems. There is also a greenish yellow King Tut seedling on tall branching stems.

"Wambliska, the new white I have just named is a very large bloom on a well branched stem 42 inches tall. The standards are pure white with a bluish sheen. The falls are pure white. Some years ago while I was in California I saw Purissima in Prof. Mitchell's garden. I said then it would be a long time before I named a white iris. I bought a plant of Purissima. The first one died and the second bloomed last year but I have hardly any plant left this year.

"Mr. Cooley said when here last spring that Wambliska was the best white he had seen and that if it would grow as tall and prove as hardy as it seemed to be he felt certain he could grow it. I have never given it any special protection.

"Credit should go to H. P. Sass for the intermediates. He has been working on these for many years. He always had the thought of an everblooming iris in mind and he got it at last in Autumn Queen. It has bloomed every day since spring although we had terrible hot weather in July. (The letter is dated Aug. 18, showing the long period of bloom.)

"He also wanted to bring a large white from intermediate to late blooming types and this year had some wonderful whites in late blooming iris from intermediate seed. We have some intermediates of darker yellow than Prairie Gold, some very dark blue purple selfs, such as Chief, dark red purples such as Challenger and dark blends such as Ragusa. A few new seedlings blooming for the first time this year are the nearest to red of all the irises we have."

H. T. Judson, president of the Prairie section, also writes of Wambliska. He says: "It is a breath taker. The Sass Brothers have gotten their stride and they now have the height in their irises as well as the size. I don't know of any variety for size that can beat Balduin, Hans' Delft Blue."

Balduin or Baldwin, whichever may be the accepted spelling is somewhat similar to Millet's Gargantua which has a better stem and height but is not so large and many think not as rich in color.

There is, perhaps, a tendency on the part of gardeners to take too much on simple faith and authority. The necessity for lime on tall bearded irises is an instance. Experience of a number of growers shows that the application of lime does no good but does positive harm in promoting root rot. Irises of the tall bearded type seem to flourish in sightly acid soils in which they also seem immune to rot. It is said that they do not increase as vigorously in acid as in alkaline soil but this may be due to the fact that the acid soils are not as rich in plant foods as the alkaline.

Some nice sounding phrase is put in circulation and gains credence without being tested out by the individual gardener to see whether it works out as reported. In this connection is the widespread advice "to plant just sitting, like a duck in the water." It seems as a matter of practical experience in climates subject to thawing and freezing that this is not good advice.

It has always been a matter of comment that Mrs. Douglas Pattison in her Quality Gardens at Freeport obtained such a lavish display almost exclusively from single rhizomes planted the year before. A study of the plants showed that the rhizomes were all covered. Asked concerning this point, Mrs. Pattison said:

"I have learned from experience that the rhizomes in climates like the one here in Freeport where we are certain to have a lot of thawing and freezing, should be covered. They should not be covered deeply but about an inch or even less over them is enough. I have no trouble with winter heaving when they are thus planted and you can see the results in the bloom and vigor of growing. I had a great deal of trouble when I left the rhizome partly exposed and considerable losses from heaving both in plants and in good bloom stalks."

Mrs. Pattison and other Freeport growers are not at all afraid to feed their irises and the results show in the unusually high quality bloom seen every year at Freeport. In the spring a dress-

ing of a well advertised commercial fertilizer made by a Chicago packing house is applied, bone meal at planting time, and an occasional dressing of lime.

Mr. F. X. Schreiner has retired from the clothing business in St. Paul and is devoting all his time and attention to his iris farm on the outskirts of the city. His catalogue has become a standard iris reference work as to classification.

Mrs. Silas B. Waters, president of the Federated Garden clubs of Cincinnati and vicinity, spent the summer in Europe and visited MM. Cayeux and Millet with a view to adding some of their latest "obtentions" as the French anglicize it, to her collection. She was much impressed with the stately beauty of Deputé Nomblot and was anxious to learn from M. Cayeux as to his new series of reds of which Fulgore is said to be the first, Numa Roumestan and Hernani having been its predecessors.

Unusual iris plantings noted this season were the interspersing of the so called "magic lily" none other than Lycoris squamigera or Amaryllis Hallii, among the irises, the umbels of pink lily trumpets appearing above the iris leaves giving an unusual and striking effect. As this bulb makes its foliage in the spring and dies down in June it does not interefere with the ripening of the iris rhizomes as the flower stalk arises after the foliage has disappeared.

A planting of fascinating beauty is the handsome little Dykes iris, Silver Mist, surrounded by pink Lebanon candytuft, aethionema, usually seen only in rock gardens but which grows equally well in any thoroughly drained soil, preferably alkaline. The blue foliage of the aethionema, its pink bloom and the glistening pale blue of Silver Mist is a most alluring little garden picture.

Pink irises are deceitful factors in that the same iris in one position will not be so very pink and in another it will be strikingly pink. An example is quoted by Mrs. Waters in Delicatissima which associated with the blue tone of Viking is unrecognizably pink.

One good reason for keeping Mrs. Alan Gray, one of the alleged pink series is to plant it with Kochi and Bronze Queen tulips. This group never fails to arouse admiration.

I have often thought that I should write an article about our garden for the Iris Bulletin, as you haven't anything about any gardens of the Middle-West members. You can see from the pic-

tures the kind that it is—naturalistic. It's back of the house, planted in a small home orchard of pear, apple, and plum trees.

I have loved iris and grown them for many years. I sent away for them when all I could buy here was a red geranium. I have so many thousands of plants that is was foolish not to have made it a selling business before, but I love a great mass of bloom.

The irises are planted on both sides of the yard, with a few low shrubs between them and the center of the yard, and over

Bird Haven Iris Garden, Kansas.

The Pool in the garden of Mrs. Thomas, Kansas.

which the blooms can be seen. After the period of bloom the shrubs shut off, to a degree, that part of the garden.

The mass of iris in picture 3 is on the south side of the yard—we face east—and another planting in drifts is on the north side. These plantings run to the back fence. The "big stick" in number 3 is to keep people out of that path. Some fine iris were pollenized, and for some reason, which I wish I knew, people will insist on handling the blossoms.

On the north side of the pool, Mother of Pearl is planted. It won't withstand the winds of Kansas, and as I am very fond of this iris, I have planted it under a bush so that it bends over the water. Next to it is planted a pink peony that looks like a water lily, wild blue iris of this section of the country, and Sungod, the new yellow iris I am introducing. You have no idea how beautiful this combination is.

MRS. WALTER V. THOMAS.

* * * * * *

"IRIS DESCRIPTIONS"

CHAS. E. F. GERSDORFF

I am taking from one catalog already complimented for its unique, interesting and informative character, the descriptions of three varieties which are good examples of inaccuracies prevailing in so many comparative catalogs, which in no way indicate what may be intended and do not convey a true evaluation of the colors of the supposedly improved varieties. Catalog makers should review the descriptive matter before publication for the sake of accuracy that the buyer may know what he really should order.

Kingfisher Blue—S. purple violet, F. very dark blue; a brilliant seedling from Perry's Blue on which it is a great improvement . . . , and the color being lighter and brighter.

Perry's Blue—a wonderful shade of sky blue showing white on the falls.

Skylark—a light blue, only slightly darker than Perry's Blue.

How can one reconcile descriptions like these? How can a very dark blue and purple be lighter and brighter than sky blue, and a light blue be slightly darker? The actual colors would mean just the opposite to me.

Iris Borer—again: After a hot day the heat under those cans (in addition to the gas) must be intense. The spikes of one—Geo. J. Tribolet—were turned white, dead as a door nail. This year that particular plant bloomed profusely. All those treated seem free of borer—quite a lot planted last July but not treated, show a lot of borer work. As to the cans (about five gallon lard can): May be obtained here, and I suppose elsewhere, from the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. stores at 7c each.

Another device of mine may interest you, if you labor yourself with the Iris. At any hardware store you can get what in appearance is something like an adz, but is called, I think, a grubbing hoe. Any acetylene cutter will cut it to a sharper edge. Grind up rough edge a little and you have the best Iris garden tool ever made. Use handle the shape of an axe handle, not a straight one.

STEWART JOHNSON.

* * * * * *

A SUGGESTION

The circular letter from the American Iris Society was received and it gives me pleasure to inform you that I have been a member of the A. I. S. for 1929 and now 1930 although I have been extremely tardy in paying dues.

I know you are interested in increasing the membership of A. I. S. and may I candidly express some ideas? The A. I. S. has given me as a member a list of those who love Irises and where they live; an interesting BULLETIN No. 10 as to how to plant, hybridize and a list of some good old varieties; and then four BULLETINS per year—What is in them for the new Members? President's report; Treasurer's report; Test garden report; perhaps a report on sterility or borer. This is interesting but a casual reading suffices.

The report on Iris Shows and winning varieties is much more interesting.

May I suggest that the Editors in every issue pick out—just for argument say—three standard and three novelities or recent introductions of Tall Bearded Iris and give a complete and interesting history and description of them with perhaps cuts.

It is a great honor to receive a medal at an Iris show.

Let the editors of the BULLETIN make it an honor to have a new variety described therein.

Only twelve Irises on the honor roll every year.

What bids and rivalry for this honor you would have!

Now, I really believe that these articles alone in your BULLETIN would increase membership in the A. I. S. For the BULLETINS are about all the new members get for their $3.00 and if they are interested enough to become members they are on the lookout for good new Irises to try in their gardens.

The Irises to be published for the coming year might even be selected by ballot at the annual meeting of the Society.

These articles in the A. I. S. BULLETIN would be somewhat similar to "The Proof of the Pudding" in the American Rose Society Annual—where comment is made on certain Roses by members in all parts of the United States.

Can we not have as many members in the Iris Society as the Rose Society?

Is the Suggestion worth anything? The officers can work out feasible details.

Thanking you for your indulgence, and believe me, I am strong with you for Irises.

Very truly,

M. BERRY DOUB.

* * * * * *

"If the Society is to prosper it must grow and progress—from a greater field of members there is more apt to come some of those needed endowments. But in the meantime we give free to commercial members a mailing list that would cost them several hundred dollars to advertise for. Therefore, again, the suggestion that commercial members pay more for annual membership and advertise in the BULLETIN or the two propositions be tied up to-gether. There would be an A and a B class—the larger and the smaller growers, the latter having mere cards in the way of advertising. It would be fine to see a complete list of growers advertising in the BULLETIN.

"I still think that success lies in serving the great numbers and their interests. The perennial interest is discussion of varieties."

F. X. SCHREINER.

Iris Roll-Call: "My blooming season naturally begins later here in northern New Jersey than in Mr. Shull's garden at Chevy Chase, Md., but with some varieties there was very close comparison with his graph while others showed considerable differences in time.

"From the first day of bloom to the day the last flower withered inclusive: Fairy was in bloom 23 days, Rhein Nixe 24, and Lohengrin 25 days which corresponded closely with the graph. Mme. Chereau, on the other hand, continued for 27 days as against 17 shown by the graph.

"The earliest to flower in my garden was Atroviolacea (DB) on April 8 and from that date there was continuous bloom until the last of Goldbound (Jap.) on July 12.

"The star performer was I. gracilipes which began on May 17 and continued for 34 days, until June 19. The condition here seen just right for gracilipes. I have found that the best results are obtained by sub-dividing the clumps every year. New growth starts almost at once and by fall each single plant has become a fan-like clump of 12 to 28 sheaves and the following spring each clump will send out 5–9 flower stalks or more,—in two cases I have found as many as eleven on plants that had been but single rhizomes the previous July."—W. HERBERT DOLE.

* * * * * *

Some years ago the discoverer of a double-flowering plants of Celeste sent me rhizomes for trial. Now for the third year has "May Allison" bloomed with a large majority of abnormal flowers and an amazingly high percentage of blooms with a dozen segments —a most attractive effect. ED.

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Height: preferably over 40 in. in the taller groups, over 30 in. in the variegata, or amoena groups, 15 in. for intermediates, etc.	10%

FLOWER—35%

Color: clear; venation or reticulation, if noticeable, clearly defined.	15%
Form: if distinctive and pleasing; e. g., Princess Beatrice, Queen Caterina.	10%
Size: e. g., Junlata, Rhein Nixe, Sindjkha of their types.	10%
Substance: firm and resistant to weather conditions.	10%

OUTSTANDING QUALITY—Unless a variety is **both clearly distinct and pleasing,** it should receive no credit on this point. 15%

Distribution: Fragrance not over 5%; foliage thruout season not over 10%; value for exhibition or as a cut-flower not over 5%; exceptional development of form, color, or substance not over 5% each.

* From Bulletin 15, page 40.

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The new Peony Manual of the American Peony Society is bringing most favorable comments from every section of the country where it has been distributed. It is, doubtless, the most complete and authoritative work on the Peony ever attempted.

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Members of the American Iris Society are cordially invited to join us.

All remittances should be drawn in favor of the American Peony Society and mailed to

W. F. CHRISTMAN, Secretary, Northbrook, Ill.

DYKES ON IRISES

A Reprint of the contributions of the late W. R. Dykes, L-es-L., to various journals and periodicals during the last twenty years of his life.

Published by The Iris Society (England)

Compiled and edited by GEORGE DILLISTONE.

This book contains 280 pages of Articles, Notes and Comments on species and varieties of Irises written by Mr. Dykes between 1905 and 1925. These have been collected and edited, and are now republished with the permission of the various publications in which they originally appeared. The writings are so full of useful information, much of which is unobtainable from any other source, that it was felt essential to arrange them in permanent form for the use of all Iris lovers.

A committee consisting of Mr. G. P. Baker, Mr. G. L. Pilkington and Mr. George Dillistone have had charge of all arrangements of the publication and were able to raise a guaranty fund to provide the cost of publication.

The collection is a fitting tribute to the man who penned its contents at various times under ever changing circumstances. Throughout the years during which they were written, it is possible to trace the results of first impressions subsequently confirmed or modified.

The ground covered by these writings can be estimated by the fact that the book contains 12 pages of Index in which there are approximately 2,000 references.

By arrangement with The Iris Society (England) The American Iris Society is to be the sole distributor of this book in the United States. As the number of copies allotted to this country is limited, early application is advisable.

The price of the book to the general public is $4, plus 10 cents postage. Special price to the members of the American Iris Society and of the Iris Society of England is $3.50 plus ten cents postage.

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